GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:403
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for development and conservation of forests in association with the tribals and forest dependent people;

(b) if so , the details thereof during the last three years and as on date; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government on such representations?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.403 BY PROF. UMMAREDDI VENKATESWARLU, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (LOK SABHA) REGARDING PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS FIXED FOR REPLY ON 16.4.2001.

(a) Yes Sir. The Government has received a representation from Dr. P.Pulla Rao regarding the problems of Medara Communities in Andhra Pradesh and for formulating proposals for the benefit of tribals living in or near forests.

(b) & (c) In this regard, officers of the Central Government have attended the meeting of the Medara Communities organised by Dr. P.Pulla Rao in West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh and also visited the Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh was requested to look into the problems being faced by the Medara Communities favourably and to take necessary action in the matter since most of the problems of the Medara Community who largely depend on bamboo for their livelihood can be addressed by the State Government. The Central Government would consider providing financial assistance for Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes if proposals are received from the State Government for central assistance.

Meanwhile, the Central Government has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis` which is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal. Under this Scheme, 100% central assistance is provided to the State Governments under 8th and 9th Plans.

The Objectives of the Scheme are:

1. To improve forest based biomass resource base in degraded forest lands and to manage it on a sustained basis for the domestic needs of the identified communities.

2. To involve local Scheduled Tribes and other rural poor in protection and rehabilitation of degraded forests for maintenance of ecology of the area and for sustenance of local communities.

3. To provide gainful employment and sustainable economic base to Scheduled Tribes and other rural poor in the vicinity of their habitation.

The total outlay for the IX Plan is Rs.1500 lakhs for rehabilitation of an area of 15667 hectares. The allocation and expenditure during the last three years are given below:

Year	Allocation (Rs.in lakhs)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1998-1999	197.05	146.86
1999-2000	398.33	276.95
2000-2001	538.40	355.66

Though the Scheme is doing well in some States, non receipt of the proposals from some State Governments and non receipt of the utilisation certificates are some of the important reasons for the not so satisfactory performance of the Scheme in some of the Sates.